The Town Board met in Regular Session this evening at the Gardiner Town Hall at 7 PM. Present were Supervisor Hartner and Councilmembers Carucci Clements, Ulvestad and Scandinaro. There were approximately 13± audience members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

At the April 7th meeting, Marc Rider, Executive Director of the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency will be presenting "Together Toward Zero Waste", outlining UCRRA'S plan to minimize the amount of waste that we ship elsewhere in New York State for disposal.

Agricultural District Inclusions Application Period for 2026 deadline is March 30, 2026. The County will accept applications from landowners to have their predominantly viable agricultural lands included into a New York State Certified Agricultural District.

Valley Farms Corp. of Watch Tower Farms owns eight parcels of land in the Town of Gardiner. Of these eight parcels, five are eligible for a Religious Tax Exemption. The Town Supervisor received a letter from Allen Mayers stating that Valley Farms has chosen not to apply for the Religious Tax Exemption for the 2026–2027 tax year. In response, the Supervisor sent a letter thanking Valley Farms for being a good neighbor to the community.

Councilmember Clements reported that she attended the recent Association of Towns training and found it to be highly informative. She highlighted two key takeaways from the conference: first, that another municipality had successfully applied for and received approval for an Occupancy Tax; and second, that she learned about an E-Waste Recycling program that may be a good fit for implementation at the Town's Transfer Station. Councilmember Clements also formally acknowledged International Women's Day, observed on March 8. Additionally, she noted that planning for the Town's 250th Anniversary is ongoing and that volunteers are welcomed and encouraged to participate.

PRO-HOUSING COMMUNITIES' PRESENTATION BY KAI LORD-FARMER, SENIOR PLANNER, ULSTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

Kai Lord-Farmer, Senior Planner with the Ulster County Planning Board, presented information to the Board regarding the County's Pro-Housing Communities Program initiative, which is intended to address the ongoing housing crisis facing Ulster County, including the Town of Gardiner. Mr. Lord-Farmer explained that the State initiative provides more than $500 million in annual funding. He outlined that towns may participate by adopting a non-binding resolution, which would provide access to various funding sources through an application process. He further noted that eligible funding opportunities are not limited to housing development, but may also include rehabilitation, transportation, and water and wastewater treatment projects. Mr. Lord-Farmer encouraged the Town to act promptly if interested by considering passage of the Pro-Housing Communities Pledge Resolution, as funding opportunities are competitive and time-sensitive.

ADOPTION A FLEET EFFICIENCY POLICY

On the motion of Councilmember Clements, seconded by Councilmember Carucci and carried, to adopt the Fleet Efficiency Policy dated February 25, 2026.

Town of Gardiner, NY Fleet Efficiency Policy

Introduction

The Town of Gardiner is committed to reducing its reliance on fossil fuels and promoting sustainable practices within its operations. This Fleet Efficiency Policy is designed to guide the management and operation of the Town's vehicle fleet such that it can perform its required mission in a manner that maximizes fuel efficiency, minimizes environmental impact, and supports the Town's broader sustainability goals.

Policy Components

1. **Fleet Inventory Management**
    - The Town of Gardiner Highway Clerk, under the supervision of the Highway Superintendent, shall maintain an inventory of all vehicles owned operated by the Town, including leased vehicles, with the assistance of the Superintendent of Highways. The inventory shall include the following components for each vehicle:
        - Model year
        - Year purchased
        - Make
        - Model
        - Drivetrain type (2-wheel, 4-wheel, or all-wheel drive)
        - Type of fuel/power source (e.g., gasoline, diesel, compressed natural gas, electricity)
        - Miles per gallon (MPG) rating on vehicles with odometers.
        - Current odometer reading, if so equipped.
        - Class: Light-Duty, Medium-Duty, or Heavy-Duty. Classifications are based on the Federal Highway Administration. Light-Duty is defined as Class 1 and 2 vehicles, with Gross Vehicle Weight Ratings (GVWR) under 10,000 lbs. Medium-Duty vehicles are class 3 through 6 with GVWR under 26,000 and Heavy-Duty vehicles are class 7 and 8 with GVWR over 26,000 lbs.
        - Gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) over 8,500 pounds? (yes or no)
        - Vehicle function (i.e., the tasks associated with the vehicle's use)
    - Changes to the inventory shall be reported to the Climate Smart Gardiner (CSG) Coordinator as vehicles are received or relinquished. Additionally, on the first duty day each January, the Town Highway Clerk shall report the current odometers readings to the CSG Coordinator.
    - Each month, the Town Highway Clerk shall advise the CSG Coordinator regarding the usage of fossil fuels (diesel or gasoline) for the preceding month. This report will include fuel dispensed to all vehicles and equipment using such fuels.
    - The CSG Coordinator shall obtain the past year's invoices for gasoline and diesel deliveries from the Town Bookkeeper. The representative will total up the number of gallons delivered by fuel type and the total cost of the invoices. Based on this, the representative will calculate the average cost per gallon of diesel and gasoline delivered.

- Based on the inventory and fuel usage information, CSG representatives shall prepare an annual report for the Town Board on the inventory of all Town vehicles and the total amount of fuel used. Further, the report will list the fuel efficiency of those vehicles having odometers installed by showing the miles driven for each such vehicle, the fuel used, the resulting miles per gallon and fuel cost per mile driven. The report shall be rendered to the Town Board by March of the following year and published on the Town website.

0. **Vehicle Replacement Plan**
   - Town Departments shall strive to improve the overall fuel efficiency of four wheeled vehicles in the Light-, Medium- and Heavy-Duty classes. Departments must advise the Town Board of any plan to replace such vehicles. Vehicle replacement should be based on the total miles driven (if odometer equipped), annual maintenance costs, maintenance needed, and vehicle condition.

0. **Minimum Fuel Efficiency Plan and Levels**
   - In the area of Light-Duty vehicles, the proposed vehicle replacements should be the most fuel efficient vehicle in its class as specified on www.fueleconomy.gov or equivalent site as directed by the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC). This is provided that such vehicles are capable of performing the required mission, are available and are within the budget of the Town.
     1. If the most fuel efficient vehicle does not meet these criteria, then the Town will seek the next most fuel efficient vehicle that does.
     2. Departments should procure such vehicles through the use of NYS Office of General Services contracts provided that contracts exist with vendors selling the desired vehicles. Such contracts are listed at: https://ogs.ny.gov/procurement/ogs-centralized-contracts-list
     3. Where possible, those Light-Duty vehicles (under 8,500 GVWR) chosen for replacement should be advanced vehicles such as electric vehicles, plug in hybrids, hybrids or hydrogen fuel celled. Any recommendation to the Town Board to do otherwise shall be accompanied by a thorough justification.
   - Medium- and Heavy-Duty vehicles and off-road vehicles and machinery (such as bulldozers), non-traditional vehicles (such as boats), specialty vehicles (such as buses), and emergency vehicles (such as ambulances and fire trucks) are exempt from these requirements. Nevertheless, research should be done on such vehicles to identify replacements that emit the lowest Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. The Town Board should consult CSG and other NYS county and state Departments to determine what is feasible for the requirements of such vehicles.
   - The Town Board must approve all vehicle procurements and relinquishments.

0. **Overall Fleet Efficiency**
   - Within five years from the adoption of this policy, the Town of Gardiner seeks to reduce by 10% the amount of greenhouse gas emissions levels that were measured in its current Government Greenhouse Inventory Study. During this five-year period, the Town shall ensure that all new Light-Duty vehicles under 8,500 GVWR are fuel efficient.
   - Within two years of the adoption of this policy, the Town of Gardiner will ensure that all future purchases of Light-Duty vehicles are fuel efficient.

- The Town Board shall revisit and update these minimum efficiency standards whenever a new Government Greenhouse Inventory Study is taken and as technology evolves.

This policy aims to ensure that the Town of Gardiner leads in promoting sustainability and reducing its carbon footprint.

AUTHORIZATION FOR SUPERVISOR TO SIGN UCRRA MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT, 2026-2030

On the motion of Councilmember Scandinaro, seconded by Councilmember Carucci and carried, authorizing the Supervisor to sign the UCRRA agreement dated January 1, 2026.

FINAL PAYMENT TO SUNCOMMON FOR HIGHWAY GARAGE SOLAR PROJECT

On the motion of Councilmember Carucci, seconded by Councilmember Ulvestad and carried, to authorize the final payment of $48,093.50 to SunCommon, LLC for the solar project at the Highway Garage.

DISCUSSION OF REQUEST TO ALLOW VOLUNTEER GROOMING OF THE RAIL TRAIL FOR CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

Supervisor Hartner explained to the Board that several residents had contacted him seeking approval to volunteer to groom the rail trail for cross-country skiing. The Board learned that, under a 2007 easement, the use of motorized vehicles is prohibited on the rail trail, including grooming equipment. Ultimately, the Board agreed to keep the policy as is and not allow grooming of the rail trail.

APPOINTMENT OF AMBULANCE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

On the motion of Councilmember Clements, seconded by Councilmember Scandinaro, and carried, to appoint Rick Irizarry as one of three Commissioners of the Ambulance District, effective immediately, for a term to end December 31, 2026, renewable upon action of the Town Board.

AUTHORIZATION FOR SUPERVISOR TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH HOT WATER SOLUTIONS, LLC FOR THE INSTALLATION OF HEAT PUMPS AT THE TOWN HALL

On the motion of Councilmember Carucci, seconded by Councilmember Scandinaro, and carried, to authorize the Supervisor to sign the agreement with Hot Water Solutions, LLC for the installation of heat pumps, HVAC system, and a water heater at the Town Hall for the cost of $57,426.17.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Councilmember Clements - stressed that the Board needs to start working on a B.E.S.S. Law before the Moratorium expires.

Michael Foertsch – Requested that the determination of the Ulster County Supreme Court regarding the Awosting Club Article 78 be posted on the Town's website.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilmember Carucci, seconded by Councilmember Ulvestad and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia Hansen

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